# Additional/Revised Information

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| **Agenda Item #** | 7 |
| **Meeting Date** | December 6, 2004 |
| **Prepared By** | Suzanne Ludlow, Community & Government Liaison |
| **Approved By** | |

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| **Discussion Item** | Resolution re: Coalition to Clean-up Takoma Branch |
| **Additional/ Revised Information** | A grant proposal is being prepared to obtain funds to help restore the Takoma Branch and undertake education efforts. The person writing the grant application has stated that if the grant were approved, the City of Takoma Park would receive approximately $6,000-10,000 for the implementation of trash reduction measures and/or storm drain inlet grates, rain garden, etc. It is not known at this time if City or staff resources above those included in the FY05 adopted budget would be required. Information on this question has been requested and any new information received will be presented at the Council meeting.<br><br>Items that may affect Takoma Park are identified in Sections 4, 8 and 9 of the grant proposal (attached):<br><br>"Similarly, both the City of Takoma Park and the District of Columbia Department of Health/Environmental Health Administration... expect to leverage additional monies and/or in-kind services in their portions of the basin for project-related activities and implementation." (Sect. 4); "Maintenance of all in-ground projects located on publicly-owned land will be the responsibility of the jurisdiction, land management/resource agency or both." (Sect. 8); and<br>"Project partners currently include...environmentally progressive City of Takoma Park (project co-leader: LID [implementation of Low Impact Development-based stormwater management practices], storm drain inlet grate installation and other trash reduction measures)..." (Sect. 9) |
| **Policy** | |
| **Fiscal Impact** | |
| **Attachments** | Draft grant proposal |
| **Recommendation** | |
| **Special Consideration** | |

# Takoma Branch Subwatershed Restoration Project

## 1. Project Summary

A small second order Anacostia River tributary, the Takoma Branch is the most degraded stream in the highly urban Sligo Creek subwatershed. To many, this sub-basin is a microcosm of the larger, racially and ethnically diverse, multi-jurisdictional watershed in which it is located. While much restoration progress has been made since 1990 in Sligo Creek, the Takoma Branch remains largely ignored. In addition, the majority of the residents in this portion of Sligo Creek are uninformed and unaware of the history, current condition and restoration potential of this once beautiful stream. Building on the existing Sligo Creek Trash Reduction Plan (MWCOG, 2000), the proposed Takoma Branch Subwatershed Restoration Project is a two-year, $160,000 community-based effort featuring a suite of watershed restoration implementation projects and activities. These projects and activities are designed to improve general environmental quality, reduce nonpoint source pollutant loadings and trash levels, and increase environmental knowledge and community communication and involvement in the 1.2 square mile, Takoma Branch sub-basin. Proposed projects and activities include: 1) implementation of Low Impact Development–based (LID) stormwater management practices, 2) trash boom and "hot spot" storm drain inlet grate installation with bi-lingual stenciling, 3) outreach via two half-day environmental education/pollution prevention workshops, subwatershed outreach material creation and distribution, and media coverage, 4) environmental stewardship building activities (with both local citizens and schools) such as kiosk construction, riparian reforestation, exotic/invasive plant management, native fish reintroduction, and vernal pool creation (with amphibian reintroduction), 5) quantitative pre and post implementation monitoring of fish and macroinvertebrate populations, stream and roadside trash levels and invasive plant reduction success, and 6) a "How To/Lessons Learned" project summary available in both electronic (web-based) and hard copy formats.

In addition, the project boasts an extremely capable and very well-positioned partnership team committed to furthering the existing Sligo Creek Trash Reduction Plan (MWCOG, 2000), as well as other on-going Anacostia watershed restoration initiatives. The project budget includes a request for $100,000 from CBT, with $60,000 additional in cash matches.

## 2. Geographic Boundaries of the Targeted Watershed

The 11 square mile, 35 percent impervious Sligo Creek subwatershed (MDE 303d basin code number 02140205), is one of the more highly developed tributaries of the 176 square mile Anacostia River watershed (Figure 1). Among Sligo's larger tributaries is the severely impaired Takoma Branch (Figure 2). The stream drains near equal watershed portions of the City of Takoma Park (Montgomery County), Prince George's County, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Major developed area land use types in this sub-basin include single family residential, garden and high rise

apartments, roads, highway commercial and institutional. In addition, an electric power transformer station and associated power line right- of- way is present in the southern half of the basin. The project's targeted stream stewardship and environmental enhancement area includes the remaining publicly-owned, open channel stream valley corridor. The majority of this open space corridor is located downstream of Maryland Route 650/New Hampshire Avenue (Figure 3).

## 3. Watershed Planning, Assessments and On-Going Projects

The 2000 MWCOG Sligo Creek Trash Reduction Plan is the only existing plan targeting trash and nonpoint source pollutant loading reduction and increased environmental stewardship in the Takoma Branch subwatershed. It should be noted that the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (PGDER) and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDDNR) have recently begun an Anacostia Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS). WRAS study findings and recommendations are expected to be completed by the end of 2005, and will include the Prince George's County portion of Sligo Creek. Since 1990, numerous stormwater management, stream restoration, wetland creation, riparian reforestation and fish and amphibian reintroduction projects have been completed in Upper Sligo Creek. More recently, four anadromous fish passage projects on the lower Sligo mainstem (Woodrow Wilson Bridge Replacement Mitigation) were completed. Also, Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC) has recently received grant funding from CBT to support a Sligo Creek invasive's plant coordinator. With regard to monitoring, biological monitoring of the Sligo Creek mainstem by The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), PGDER, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB), FOSC and others is on-going. As previously stated, due to the multi-jurisdictional nature of its catchment and associated restoration challenges, the Takoma Branch tributary has been overlooked.

## 4. Outlining Solutions to Implement Watershed Plan or Assessment

Building on the success of the Sligo Creek Trash Reduction Plan's environmental stewardship, pollution prevention, environmental education and stormwater management implementation aspects, the project will reduce both trash levels and stormwater runoff-related impacts. Specifically, through the strategic employment of various LID practices (e.g., bioretention, rain gardens, etc), storm drain inlet grates, trash boom(s), regular stream cleanups and greater citizen education and involvement in the overall restoration effort, major improvements in stream quality, aesthetics and stewardship are expected. The project also expands restoration/environmental stewardship activities into new and additional areas including: kiosk construction, riparian reforestation, exotic/invasive plant management, fish (pollution tolerant pioneer species) and amphibian reintroduction, vernal pool creation, and LID implementation.

If funded, the project will immediately leverage an additional $40,000 from PGDER for LID and trash reduction implementation, with possibly greater amounts added in future years. Similarly, both the City of Takoma Park and the District of Columbia Department of Health/ Environmental Health Administration (DC-DOH/EHA) expect to leverage additional monies and/or in-kind services in their portions of the basin for project-related activities and implementation. MWCOG will use its proposed $20,000 cash match to increase its stream monitoring and outreach efforts and further improve aquatic, wetland and riparian buffer conditions.

## 5. Promoting Transferability

The project will through the "How To/Lessons Learned" summary report and web page postings (on the existing MWCOG/Anacostia and FOSC websites, with hot links to project partners and affiliates) provide practical guidance to a broad and diverse audience on how to build effectively a diverse community/government partnership for long-term restoration of small watersheds, as well as overcoming the challenges faced in multi-jurisdictional drainage basins. In addition, the project's comprehensive step-by -step approach can easily be transferred to both other problem watershed areas and existing neighboring subwatershed groups in the Anacostia (e.g., Neighbors of Northwest Branch, Eyes of Paint Branch, etc). The envisioned workshops, stream cleanups, and major LID /trash reduction projects will also include a media coverage component (minimum, local newspaper and cable television coverage) to further gain visibility, public interest and support within both Sligo Creek and the Anacostia watershed.

## 6. Project Schedule

The envisioned two-year project schedule is roughly as follows:

Year One

a) perform all pre-implementation monitoring-related work (summer '05 - spring '06),
b) expand project partnership (on-going),
c) hold one workshop and several subwatershed environmental education/stewardship building events such as kiosk construction, riparian reforestation and invasive plant control(fall '05 and spring '06) and
d) complete planning for LID and trash reduction projects and begin implementation (spring-summer '06).

Year Two

a) hold second workshop (fall '06),
b) complete remaining stewardship building events (fall '06),

c) complete remaining LID and trash reduction projects (fall/winter ’06),
d) complete remaining monitoring work (spring ‘07),
e) conduct community survey/project questionnaire, and
f) complete and distribute summary report (July ’07).

**7. Defining Outcomes and Measuring Success**

The outcome of this model project will be a “How To/Lessons Learned” summary report that will aid similar small scale urban watershed restoration efforts across the Chesapeake Bay region and beyond. It will also help to galvanize public and political support for further environmental restoration and funding. Project success will be measured as follows: 1) via the number of workshop and stewardship events attendees, 2) number of LID projects installed and acreage controlled, 3) number of acres of riparian reforestation and invasive plant control, 4) instream trash level reduction (measured via MWCOG’s Trash Indexing System), 5) pre and post fish and macroinvertebrate IBI scores and reintroduced fish survival, 6) amount of money/in-kind services leveraged, 7) number of media coverage events and 8) response to project questionnaire and web page information.

**8. Maintaining Projects**

Maintenance of all in-ground projects located on publicly-owned land will be the responsibility of the jurisdiction, land management/resource agency or both. FOSC, MWCOG and community volunteers will assist in the long-term maintenance of reforestation and invasive plant control areas. LID projects located on private property will feature a maintenance agreement with the local jurisdiction’s authorized representative. Project-related web page information will be maintained and updated by both MWCOG and FOSC for a minimum of one-year beyond the official project completion date.

**9. Qualifications and Partner Organizations**

Project partners currently include the 500 member-strong FOSC (project co-leader: community education/outreach, invasive plant management, and stream clean ups); nationally recognized LID leader, PGDER (project co-leader: LID implementation, trash boom and “Livable Communities” components); environmentally progressive City of Takoma Park (project co-leader: LID, storm drain inlet grate installation and other trash reduction measures); urban watershed restoration expert, DC-DOH/EHA (project co-leader: environmental education/pollution prevention and LID); major stream valley land owner and manager, M-NCPPC (project co-leader: riparian corridor/habitat improvements) and Anacostia watershed restoration effort coordinator with over 16- years of local and nationally recognized program experience, MWCOG (overall project leader and coordinating group with stream monitoring and summary “How To/Lessons Learned” report responsibilities).

## 10. Preliminary Budget

The proposed project total budget is $160,000 and includes the following six general tasks and three budget categories (Note: $100,000 in funding is requested from CBT with $40,000 PGDER and $20,000 MWCOG cash matches, respectively):

Task 1. *LID Implementation* ($70,000),

Task 2. *Trash Reduction* ($20,000),

Task 3. *Environmental Education/Outreach* ($25,000),

Task 4. *Stream/Environmental Stewardship* ($20,000),

Task 5. *Monitoring* ($10,000) and

Task 6. *Reporting* ($15,000)

General Budget Categories

**a. Staff and Administrative ($75,000)**

**b. Outreach Materials ($ 20,000)**

**c. Restoration and Protection Materials ($ 65,000)**